

The implicit cognition of interpersonal attraction

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What happens automatically and instinctively in the cognitive system when you unexpectedly see a physically attractive person? Are there changes in attention and memory? And does time slow down or even stop?



General goal: To examine when and how changes in implicit processes occur in situations of interpersonal attraction and their effects on real-world relationships.

Our studies investigated:

- i) Whether changes in implicit cognitive processes – attention, memory, and time perception – in situations related to reproductive fitness constitute a unitary adaptation;
- ii) If individual differences in implicit cognition predict real-world behavior, using speed-dating events;
- iii) The influence of female reproductive hormones and self-esteem on implicit cognition.

Findings shed new light on the origins and functions of the human cognitive system.

Our research helps to illuminate what happens automatically and instinctively in the cognitive system when someone feels attracted to another person.

